Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 PRS-01 VO-03 SCA-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FBIE-00 SY-05 INSE-00 L-03 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /068 W

O P 141139Z JUL 77 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9160 AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL GENEVA 5785

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, KE, ET (TAYE RETTA)

SUBJ: REPORTED REQUEST OF ETHIOPIAN OFFICER FOR REFUGEE STATUS

- 1. UNHCR DIRECTOR FOR EAST AFRICAN AFFAIRS (M'KANDA) HAS NOTIFIED MISSION OF REQUEST FOR REFUGEE STATUS IN KENYA OF ETHIOPAN CHIEF OF BORDER REGION AND REFUGEE ADMINISTRATION, TAYE RETTA. M'KANDA SAYS THAT TAYE RETTA WAS RESPONSIBLE PRINCIPALLY FOR RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA AND SUDAN IN THESE AREAS, AND THAT HE ACCOMPANIED ETHIOPIAN PRESIDENT TO OAU SESSION IN LIBREVILLE AS ADVISER ON REFUGEES AND BORDER ISSUES. FOLLOWING RETURN FROM LIBREVILLE, TAYE RETTA SOUGHT ASYLUM IN KENYA, FEARING DEATH SHOULD HE RETURN TO ADDIS ABABA.
- 2. M'KANDA HAS BEEN ADVISED BY LONG STANDING MUTUAL FRIEND IN KENYA THAT ON JULY 11 TAYE RETTA APPEALED TO EMBASSY NAIROBI FOR ASSISTANCE AS REFUGEE. ACCORDING TO HIM, TAYE RETTA WAS TOLD THAT PROCESSING WOULD TAKE "ABOUT SIX MONTHS". IN VIEW OF DELICATE CURRENT RELATIONS BETWEEN KENYA AND ETHIOPIA, KENYANS ARE CONCERNED THAT TAYE RETTA NOT REMAIN IN KENYA FOR SUCH A PROTRACTED CONFIDENTIAL

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PERIOD. FURTHERMORE, HE IS SAID TO FEAR POSSIBLE
ASSASSINATION BY ETHIOPIAN AGENTS SHOULD HE STAY IN KENYA.
IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED, THEREFORE, THAT HE MOVE TO SOME
EUROPEAN STATE, SUCH AS GERMANY OR ITALY, DURING THE PROCESSING PERIOD, ACCORDING TO M'KANDA. HOWEVER, HE STATES
THAT TAYE RETTA HAS NO DOCUMENTATION FOR HIS TRAVEL AND NO
MONEY FOR SUPPORT, AND IS SAID TO HVE APPEALED THROUGH

HIS KENYAN FRIEND THAT HIS APPLICATION BE ACTIVELY PROCESSED.

3. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY MAY HAVE CONCERNING THIS CASE, ITS PRESENT STATUS, AND WHAT PROCESSING MEASURES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION.VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: SREF, KE, ET, (TAYE RETTA)

To: NAIROBI Type: TE

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